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Beyond the Bake Sale

Fundraising for Local History Organizations
By Jamie Simek

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About the Book

Beyond the Bake Sale: Fundraising for Local History Organizations meets organizations where they are, cutting through all of the assumptions and mumbo-jumbo, taking professional fundraising strategies and scaling them to an accessible level. Designed specifically for small cultural heritage organizations, this book is written with their unique challenges in mind. From caring for objects-based collections to succeeding with minimal (or no) permanent staff to grant writing for those who've never written grants, this book is for local history organization leaders doing critical work to care for our shared history.

Complete with explanations, examples, and thought-provoking questions, this book challenges local history leaders to brainstorm, communicate, experiment, and plan. Blank worksheets encourage readers to put ideas down in writing and establish processes to build upon. Whether read cover to cover or used as a reference text for specific topics, users will find material that begins with a broad overview before narrowing to focus on tips and tactics that will help grassroots fundraisers feel more comfortable, confident and confident in their efforts.

Above all else, this book is grounded in the idea that fundraising is an intentional, people-focused process built on genuine, personal relationships. This philosophy should be as accessible to leaders at small cultural heritage organizations as to anyone else doing important nonprofit work in their communities.

About the Author

Jamie Simek's 20-year career in organization and constituent relations includes stops in university and alumni relations, student organization advising, veterans services, fundraising training, and grant writing. As the fundraising educator for Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society, she was responsible for teaching fundraising, grant writing, and evaluation methods to hundreds of local history organization leaders. At the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, she managed grants and special projects as a member of the philanthropy and membership team.

Praise for the Book

"Beyond the Bake Sale is an comprehensive but accessible fundraising tool box. Jamie Simek demystifies development theory and practice in a way that is empowering, and offers professional, easy-to-use guidance to anyone working to inspire investment in your mission."— David A. Janssen, CEO, Brucemore, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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